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FAX TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Pages: 5
(Including Cover)

TO: Jim Coffey FROM: Chuck Kitchen

MEMO: Please call after you
have reviewed. Thanks.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

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A PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF THE AUSTIN QUARTER LANDFILL BUFFER ZONE

HAW RIVER ASSEMBLY

October, 1993

INTRODUCTION

Part of the Haw River Assembly's mission is to produce and conduct educational programs for the public in conservation, water quality, river ecosystems, and the wise use of our natural resources. We currently sponsor one major educational project, the Haw River Festival, which serves all the counties in the Haw River basin by bringing 3 000 fourth graders to the river each spring to teach them about the unique river resource we all share. We have also conducted streamwatch workshops for many interested individuals and community and civic groups in our eleven years of river advocacy.

In furtherance of our educational mission, we propose to the Alamance County Board of Commissioners that the County grant the Haw River Assembly a license to use that part of the Austin Quarter landfill buffer zone that lies adjacent to the Haw River as an "environmental park."

PROPOSED USE AND ACCESS

We envision a low-impact, minimalist use: we plan to build and maintain a loop trail along the river for hiking and nature study (see accompanying map). A deer trail currently exists, and we see no difficulties in using, and in places improving, the existing trail for this purpose. We will not build any structures or leave any equipment on the site, although eventually we will want to erect signs and markers on the trail identifying interesting natural phenomena, such as beech groves, flood plain vegetation, etc. In addition, there are two creeks that pass through the landfill and the buffer. We propose setting up streamwatch monitoring stations where these creeks intersect the trail. Because of the many ways that landfilling operations can impact streams, such stations can provide valuable long-term monitoring studies, as well as being excellent sites for streamwatch education programs.

Austin Quarter Proposal

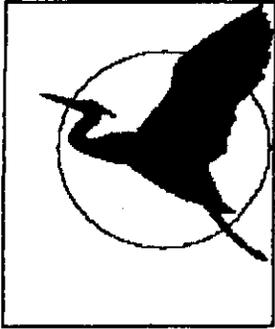
For the park to serve the purpose we envision, physical access must be limited. We have obtained permission from an adjacent property owner, Nancy Crutchfield, to use a farm road that runs on the west side of the landfill property to the river to gain access to the buffer near the river. There will be no motor traffic to the site itself; all visitors will park their vehicles near Austin Quarter road on the Crutchfield property and walk the farm road to the trail near the river. The property owner and the Assembly do not foresee any problems in limiting physical access within reasonable expectations, but any suggestions the County has in this regard would be welcome.

ADMINISTRATION

The Haw River Assembly Board of Directors will appoint an individual, or group of individuals, to be responsible for the administration of the site. Use of the site for Assembly programs will be scheduled with the responsible individual(s). In this way, "unofficial" use of the site will be kept to a minimum, and we can avoid the adverse impacts of indiscriminate use. As much as possible, we will try to keep the number of people using the site at any one time small, although we may use the site during the Haw River Festival and take fourth graders there for streamwatch instruction and nature walks, if that proves feasible.

It goes without saying that we plan to stay near the marked trail on the map, for the most part, during our programs, and we will not interfere with the operation of the landfill while on site. We do request, however, that we receive copies of any water quality monitoring reports from the landfill monitoring wells, and that we be allowed to periodically split samples from those monitoring wells for independent analysis, per our discussion with Jim Coffey of the North Carolina Division of Solid Waste.

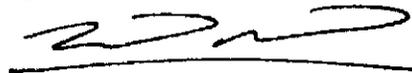
10/12/93



Junior Teague

You will find enclosed a copy of the Haw River Assembly's proposal for the use of the Austin Quarter Landfill Buffer Zone written by Steve Grathwohl in collaboration with myself and Chris Carter. I hope that we can get our working agreement with Alamance County finalized soon. I look foreword to speaking with you soon.

yours



Michael Chandler
President
for the Haw River Assembly
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